

Michaud Announces Funding For Violence Prevention in Maine

Tuesday, September 29 2009

WASHINGTON, DC – Today Congressman Mike Michaud announced that Maine is receiving \$4,685,162 from the Department of Justice for seven different programs around the state.

“This is important funding for our state,” said Michaud. “We all share the goal of reducing domestic abuse, sexual assault, and dating violence in Maine and across the country. This funding will help lead to greater awareness of the issue, and more importantly, a decrease in the number of these tragic cases through increased outreach, analysis and coordination.”

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According to the Maine Department of Public Safety, last year Maine had the highest rate of murders in many years. Over 60% of those murders were domestic violence related. A complete list of programs funded can be found below.

University of Southern Maine (USM) - \$2,360,300 (Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Technical Assistance Program)

The program at the Muskie School of Public Service is set up to collect data, train grantees and assemble reports for the OVW. The Muskie Program and the OVW have been working together for over 10 years.

Anita St. Onge, Director of Domestic Violence Initiatives at the Muskie School of Public Service at USM commented that she, “was excited to have this opportunity coming to Maine. The Office on Violence Against Women provides a vital service and we are honored to continue working with them.”

Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy Tribe - \$809,795 (Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program)

The grant has three goals: (1) to decrease the incidence of violent crime against Indian women; (2) to strengthen the capacity of Indian tribes to exercise their sovereign authority to respond to violent crimes committed against Indian women; and (3) to ensure that perpetrators of violent crimes committed against Indian women are held accountable for their criminal behavior.

Maine Department of Public Safety - \$228,677 (Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program)

Maine Department of Public Safety, in collaboration with its non-profit, non-governmental victim service partner Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, will implement this project to enhance victim safety through the creation of an electronic process for transmission of Protection From Abuse Orders (PFA). Through this initial award, the project will: 1) partner with the Administrator of the Courts to create an electronic PFA document; 2) provide state-wide training, promote and facilitate access to the new PFA component in the existing system; 3) conduct outreach to a multitude of traditional, and non-traditional partners throughout the state via electronic on-line training and informational brochures and literature; and 4) hire a database engineer, technology analyst, and a senior programmer to develop and design the documents as well as maintain the authenticity and security of the system.

Penobscot Nation - \$450,000 (Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program)

The grant will ensure that perpetrators of violent crimes committed against Indian women are held accountable for their criminal behavior.

Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault - \$119,214 (Grants to State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program)

The grant will help coordinate statewide sexual assault and domestic abuse coalitions to provide support and victim awareness.

Battered Women's Project - \$317,924 (Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Assistance Program)

The grant will enhance the safety of child, youth and adult victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by supporting projects uniquely designed to address and prevent these crimes in rural jurisdictions.

York County - \$399,252 (Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program)

The grant will 1) hire a prosecutor for the misdemeanor court docket to review and prepare domestic violence cases; 2) maintain a part-time prosecutor in the district court to prosecute domestic violence cases; 3) conduct county-wide domestic violence and stalking trainings for law enforcement; 4) establish a domestic violence and stalking protocol

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